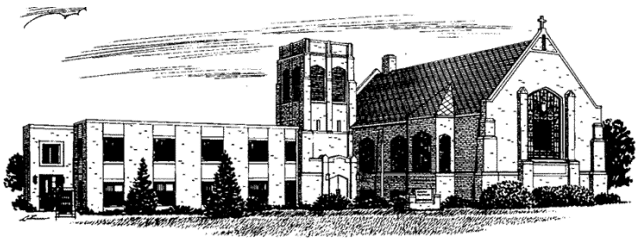


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (**beginning Memorial Day weekend**):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

May 2015

I love the Easter hymns with their joyous and hope-filled words and their often majestic tunes. One of my favorites is the Tanzanian hymn, Christ Has Arisen. Its refrain goes like this:

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy.
Death's fearful sting he has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!
Jesus is living, alleluia!

I love its message. I love its rhythm. I love to think that, as a Tanzanian traditional hymn, that there are those across the world who sing the same song and for some of the same reasons as we do.

I love the fact that we sing our Alleluias and hymns way beyond Easter Day and even Easter's 50-day season.

We proclaim our alleluias each time we serve at the Soup Kitchen, tutor a child, speak a word of encouragement, sit with a friend, or work for justice. With each alleluia we proclaim that sin and death do not have the last word.

Let us sing praise to him with endless joy – today and everyday!

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at Pine Ridge, Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in May 2015

May 2 - John Hoodlebrink
3 - Brooklyn Huff
4 – Andrew Fortenbacher
5 - Jan Stevens
6 – Charlene Baumgartner
7 – Eleanor Anderson
9 - Dennis Lundgren
11- Kelli (Hoodlebrink) Christman
David Maly
12 - Alexander Maly
Andrew Stankiewicz
Richard Smart
13 - Jenna Henderson
15 - Kathie Bradley
17 – Arla Huelsberg
19 - Monica Freemire
22 - Connor Ashley
23 - Adam Bradley
25 - Lila Roethel
Matthew Bradley
28 - Marlene Cox
30 - Benjamin Frey
31 - David Bradley

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members

May 2- Phillip and Kathleen Preston
15 - David and Elizabeth Lundgren
16 - Ted and Ann Dosch
23 - Edward and Mary Alice Brunner
25 - Matthew and Amanda Bradley
30 – Robert and Mary Kynast

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday May 3
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday May 10
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday May 17
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday May 24
Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday May 31
The Holy Trinity
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP
The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning
book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.
Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Graduating Seniors

We will offer a blessing to our graduating seniors on June 7. Please notify us of any seniors and their plans, if known, so that we can have accurate information in the office. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School
It's time to plan for Vacation Bible School this summer. If you would like to be part of the visioning process – a one time commitment – please join us on Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m. We'll be brainstorming theme, dates, process, and much more! Fun times are ahead. Come join us!

Tuesday Mornings at the Beach
Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30, beginning May 26. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact Pastor

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day
You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays, at 1:00 PM.

Thursday Morning Study
The Thursday morning Bible study continues its reading of the Apocrypha. The texts of the Apocrypha are essential reading for filling in the 400-year gap between the Old and New Testaments. The weekly study is at 9:30 a.m. and will run through May 21. See separate article for summer Bible study on the beach.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will meet May 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. David Slater leads us in our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

New Members
On Sunday, May 17, we receive new members at Saron. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor.

1st Sunday Book Group

We will end this season of meetings on Sunday, May 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs lounge. "**The Rosie Project,**" by Australian bestselling author Graeme Simsion, introduces us to Don. "Don relies on logic instead of emotion and is baffled by his interactions with other people. Then he meets break-the-rules Rosie and discovers a love that defies all logic." (Book Page review by Carrie Rollwagen). This book is funny and clever, a perfect way to wrap up our reading sessions until next October. Come join us. This book is definitely good for the soul. Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Look for the list of our new choices for up-coming guaranteed good reads in future newsletters. Enjoy reading this summer!

" *A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a multitude of counselors*." (Charles Baudelaire)

Outreach

SARON -FARMING FOR FLOWERS!

During Lent we watched our "GOOD GIFTS TREE" as the number of blossoms continued to grow! Each blossom represents a contribution of a Good Gift to the ELCA. These gifts will benefit families around the world.

As of Easter Sunday, Saron had given a total of 101 Good Gifts! These include: 16 honey bees units, 35 fruit tree seedlings, 13 sets of garden tools, 6 water jugs, 4 units for a community garden, and 27 units for 2 oxen and a cart. The total collected was $2,617.00.
Thank you to Keith Stevens for his creativity and giving us a visual of these "GOOD GIFTS"-
God's Work. Our Hands

BLOOD DRIVE

Circle your calendar in RED for June 18th for another Saron Blood Drive! Time is 2:00pm to 6:30pm

Thank you, Keith Stevens and Joyce Marquardt

CROP WALK MAY 17TH

The 36th Annual Blossomland Crop Walk is May 17. You can support the walk by walking, rocking!, working at Saron's water station, and sponsoring a walker or rocker! Please see Steve Bell or Elizabeth Kunkel , our recruiters, for a donation packet.

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups.
Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Meet me at the Freezer

Saron has meals available in the dining room freezer. Please take one to another member, friend or neighbor - anyone in need. A meal, hug, phone call or visit are all ways we can show God's love.

Contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044 for more information.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions. Thank You
Keith Stevens, St. Joseph Township Lions

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

On March 26 Saron served lunch to 159 guests. Thank you to our cooks-Linda Pater, Mary Alice Brunner, Ruth Ball, Richard and Marlene Schalon, Pastor Joan and Lindsay Gaspari's teaching partner from Brookview Montessori school and two of her students .

Saron's cookie bakers are the best! Thanks this month to Linda Pater, Kathy Cowall, Marilyn Lucy, Pat Breyen, Mary Kynast, and Irma Gorman.

If you are a student over the age of 13 and would like to help at the Soup Kitchen, please give me a call. Our summer dates are June, July and August. Just a reminder - we are always in need of LARGE cans of fruit (any kind).

God's work. Our Hands.
Thank you, Jan Stevens

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2015th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Alice Brunner. The Bible study leader will be Denise Cook.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saron Church Women will be having a ***Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 13, 2015, from, 9:00-4:00 p.m.*** in the church dining room. Lots of items are needed for the sale – furniture, tools, books, toys, kitchen items, jewelry, clothing…you name it. Beginning May 25, items may be brought to the church and placed in the practice room, across from the new bathrooms. You may bring items in on Sundays and most mornings Monday through Thursday May 26 through June 10, but it would be best to call ahead during the week. Sign-up sheets will be available later in the narthex for working to set-up and to work the day of the sale. Thanks for your participation; it's much appreciated.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

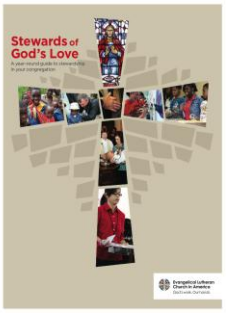
Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Blossomtime Fun at Saron!

Join the fun and watch the parade from Saron's prime viewing location. And beforehand, come to the dining room for a bratwurst, hotdog, and chips. Food will be ready at 11:00 am; the parade starts at 1:00 pm. Friends welcomed!

Support

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

We've just celebrated another Easter! So let's think about who this man Jesus really was and what he modeled for our lives. "Humanity and divinity somehow intersect in this one man. He became like us so that we might become like him….When someone volunteers somewhere to help a left-out child learn to read, or ….confesses holding a grudge against another and seeks to forgive, or ….gets an idea to be generous with their money, or …crosses ethnic barriers in love, or …holds on to hope in the face of death…"* then we are truly living out the example set by Christ. Let us all use **our hands and our time and our talents and our resources to do God's work.**

*Ortberg, John. Who Is This Man? Grand Rapids, MI. Zondervan, 2012. Pp 200-201

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave or Denise.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

Council News

Attendance Record	
03/29/2015	*73*
04/05/2015	*184*
04/12/2015	*93*
4/19/2015	*99*

Saron's Council Members – 2015

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office; 983-2475 home) – Pastor

**liaison*

Youth

WE'RE GOING TO DETROIT!

Saron's youth are heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. You can help us get there through one of our fundraisers!

POP CANS

Please save your returnable pop cans. They can be dropped off into the bin at the office door. Or, you can return your bottles and cans and bring in the receipt for the youth to redeem. Thank you!

YOUTH STOCK SALE

We, Saron's youth, are also selling stock "with a twist." Buy stock; watch a job get done! It's a win/win project!

Sunday, April 26, is our last day to sell "stock" for $1/share. In exchange, we will do some work projects around the church – mow the lawn, do yard work, paint the yellow lines on the parking lot, clean the pews with Murphy Oil Soap, and the like. A bulletin board at church offers more details.

Thanks ahead of time for your support! Those purchasing stock will be invited to an ice cream social to hear all about our trip.

Facilities

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS

Is your group using the building? Please make sure you are placed on the church calendar. As the building gets used more and more we need to make sure that we don't have conflicts regarding space. Requests for building use will be processed through the church office.

Also….
Help us be good neighbors! If you are taking out the garbage at Saron, please make sure it gets into Saron's garbage can next to our "out building" near the alley and not in one of our neighbor's garbage cans. And if the garbage can is full, place the plastic bag next to the garbage can or if you have the ability to take it home, we invite you to do so. This includes recyclables. Thank you so much!

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren, Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers are needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The church furnishes the mower and the gas. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

"Thanks!" from the **Golden Hammers**

Thank you to all those who helped spread mulch in our courtyard. Looks beautiful!

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Here's the link to our synod's camp. There are programs in the following areas – elementary, junior high, senior high, service trips, day camp, and specialized programs. For more information, contact Pastor.

http://www.elcalivingwater.com/

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out www.elca.org for news of our churchwide organization. You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran. There are stories, blogs, photos, and a feature called "Ask a Pastor.

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR MAY 2015

May 3 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Com.Assist: Jan Stevens
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

May 3 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Drew Huff
Reader/Com. Assist: Colleen Lundgren
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Ushers: Peter and Karen Johnson
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Hannah Strayhorn
Building Closing: Ken Ark

May 10 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader Intinction: Wendy King
Acolytes: Danielle Hohman
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Snyder
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

May 10 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Colleen Lundgren
Reader/Intinction: Frieda Williams
Acolytes: Drew Huff
Ushers: Pat Breyen and Krin Jurgensen
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Ruth Stelling
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

May 17 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader/Com. Assist: Sally Schmuhl
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Krista Blaylock

May 17 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Com. Assist: Brian Culverhouse
Ushers: John Olson and Ken Ark
Acolyte: Austin Hamala
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marlene Schalon
Building Closing: Dan Gustafson

May 24 9:30 a.m. STARTING ONE SERVICE
Assisting Minister:
Reader/Intinction: Mary Kynast
Ushers: Jack and Cheryl Houser
Acolyte: Brandon & Troy Burrow, Connor, Colin and Aiden Ashley
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marilyn Lucy
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

May 31 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister:
Reader/Intinction: Eric Standen
Ushers: Jim Manore and Steve Bell
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing: Dennis and Colleen Lundgren

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Worship in the Courtyard on May 24
Weather Permitting
Bring a lawn chair for seating, as you are able

Summer Worship Schedule Begins
One service only – 9:30 AM
NO Summer Learning Hour

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1 CWU FRIENDSHIP DAY	2 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion Breakfast 11:00 a.m. church Picnic 1:00 p.m. Blossom Parade Starts
Fifth Sunday of Easter 3 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club	4 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	5 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	6 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	7 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	8	9
Sixth Sunday of Easter 10 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning	11 9am Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. VBS Visioning	12 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	13 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	14 9:30a.m. Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	15 *Ascension of our Lord*	16
Seventh Sunday of Easter 17 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 9:40 a.m. Learning 2:30pm Crop Walk Starts Synod Assembly	18 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting Synod Assembly	19 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Synod Assembly	20 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	21 9:30a.m. Bible Study Soup Kitchen	22	23
Day of Pentecost 24 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion --- *The Holy Trinity* 31 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	25 *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* *Memorial Day (observed)*	26 8:30a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00p.m. Men's Bible Study	27 9:30am Golden Hammers 1:00p.m. Bible Study	28	29	30